

# ILCMA/WCMA Joint Summer Conference 2022

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## *Speaker Bios*

### **Kate Albrecht**

Kate Albrecht is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Her research focuses on public organizations engaging in both formal and informal structures of collaborative governance. Her recent work includes examining the monitoring mechanisms within interlocal agreements that engage nonprofit organizations, as well as the forms of water system governance and decision-making processes in northeastern Illinois.

### **Keegan Bolstad**

*Sales Manager, Ontech Systems, Inc.*

Keegan Bolstad is a Sales Manager for Ontech Systems, Inc. He has worked closely with local government for the last 10 years to help them with IT security, risk assessment, and threat management. Keegan works with municipal partners to help them implement best practices, improve cyber security, and protect their networks from increasing cyber related attacks.

### **Randy Bukas**

*City Manager, City of Freeport*

Randy is the current city manager of Freeport, Illinois (population 24,000.) He has over 40 years of experience in a variety of city management positions including administration, finance, planning and economic development. His management skills include the ability to effectively communicate and collaborate with elected officials, employees and a variety of stakeholders.

### **Collette Carlson**

*Certified Speaking Professional (CSP), International Federation of Professional Speakers*

At the heart of every sale, every interaction between a leader and a team member, every conversation with a customer... is a connection. How to make those connections effective, and leverage them for greater success, is the thread woven into every one of Colette's presentations.

Colette teaches audiences how to transform relationships through the power of connected conversations. Her keynote programs are so personalized, attendees often assume Colette is one of them. She has the outstanding ability to connect through engaging content and laugh-out-loud humor.

With a master's degree in Human Behavior, and more than 20 years of experience helping individuals change behaviors that impact their success, Colette understands the psychology, mindset, and skills required to make positive, long-lasting change.

Colette is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP), a designation held by fewer than 10% of the members belonging to the International Federation for Professional Speakers. In 2017, Colette was inducted into the CPAE Speaker Hall Fame®, a lifetime award that honors professional speakers who have reached the top echelon of platform excellence.

Trusted clients include Boeing, Microsoft, Procter & Gamble, Federal Express, Fidelity, Domino's Pizza, Great Clips, and the United States Government.

## **Amy Cotter**

*Executive Coach*

As a Success Coach with 20+ years of experience, Amy has partnered with organizations, entrepreneurs and individuals interested in forward movement toward personal and professional success.

Through customized programs and one-on-one executive coaching, she assists in the process of broadening perspectives, increasing efficiencies, and supporting successful strategies to accomplish desired results.

Amy specializes in Executive Coaching, Organizational and Leadership Enhancement (Individuals & Teams), Strategy Development, Vision / Mission / Values Execution, Culture Change, Strengthening Communication and Conflict Resolution.

She has had the privilege of partnering with Municipal clients including the City of Elgin, Village of Schaumburg, City of Crystal Lake, Village of Oak Park, Village of Woodridge, Village of Montgomery, Village of Barrington, Fox Valley Park District, Geneva Park District, Northbrook Park District, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, as well as organizations such as IPBC, Kraft Foods, Dean Foods, TreeHouse Foods, Revlon Cosmetics, Dexcom and Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.

Amy holds a degree in Leadership and Management from Judson University. She is a certified Co-Active Coach through the Coaches Training Institute and is certified as a True Color International Facilitator.

## **Lawrence Delo, ICMA-CM**

*City Administrator, City of De Pere, WI*

Lawrence Delo has been employed with the City of De Pere as City Administrator since January 2003. Mr. Delo has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and a Bachelor Degree in Political Science with a Minor in Small City Analysis from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

Mr. Delo's previous employment includes serving as the City Administrator for the City of Milton Wisconsin; Management Assistant for the City of Janesville; Assistant Operations Director for the City of Janesville; Social Security Administration; U.S. Army Reserve; management internships with various municipalities and the State of Wisconsin, and various positions in the private sector.

Mr. Delo is responsible for all of the day-to-day operations of the City of De Pere to include short- and long-term planning for the community, mentoring and supervising ten department heads, developing policy recommendations for the Mayor and City Council and the implementation of City Council policies. He is also serves as the City's representative on various boards and committees including the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Board, Central Brown County Water Authority Board, Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Municipal Partners Council, Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Transportation Task Force and various temporary, issue specific ad-hoc intergovernmental committees and sub-committees.

Mr. Delo is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and a member of the International City / County Management Association (ICMA) and the Wisconsin City / County Management Association.

## Nick Dragisich, PE

*Managing Director, Baker Tilly*

Nick is Managing Director for BTUS's financial management practice. He has more than 30 years of management experience, including service as a city administrator, assistant city manager and city engineer. As the Assistant City Manager - Operations for Spokane, Washington. He joined Baker Tilly in 2000 and became the management consulting services practice group leader in 2003. Nick has been directly responsible for or involved in numerous utility rate studies and cost analyses, cost allocation studies, long-range financial planning models, fiscal impact studies, organizational management studies, and staffing analysis studies for clients in California, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. He holds a Master of Business Administration, a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and is a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota and Washington. Nick is also MSRB Municipal Advisor Series 50 Qualified.

## Robin Ellis, ICMA-CM, AICP

*Assistant Village Administrator, Village of New Lenox, IL*

Robin began working for the Village of New Lenox as Village Planner in 1997. She became the Planning and Development Administrator in 1999 and Community Development Director in 2012. In December 2013, she was named Assistant Village Administrator, where she oversees coordination of all planning and development projects through the entitlement process, oversight of special plans such as the Village's Comprehensive Plan and New Lenox Commons Master plan, as well as the building permit and inspection services, engineering, and economic development functions of the Village. Robin is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and member of the American Planning Association, American Institute of Certified Planners.

## Jeffrey Fiegenschuh

*City Manager, City of Rochelle, IL*

Jeff Fiegenschuh was born and raised in Nebraska and is proud member of Husker Nation. He has 20 years of experience working in local government working in Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois. He earned a Bachelors of Science from Wayne State College and his MPA from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Currently Jeff serves as the City Manager in Rochelle, IL, a position he has held since 2017. Prior to that, he proudly served the communities of Rantoul, IL and Princeton, IL.

Jeff is a graduate of both the ICMA Gettysburg and Williamsburg Institutes, the Midwest Leadership Institute, the ICMA and Professional Development Academy High Performance Leadership Program and the University of Virginia Senior Executive Institute. Jeff loves working in local government and his passion is working with elected officials and citizens to help move their communities forward.

In his spare time Jeff enjoys spending time with his kids and family, being outdoors, watching Red Sox baseball and collecting anything related to Marvel, Batman and Star Wars.

## Justin A. Fischer

*Director of Public Finance, Baird*

Justin is a Director of Public Finance with Baird, a financial advisory firm with headquarters in Milwaukee. Justin provides banking and advisory services to Wisconsin municipalities, counties, school districts, special districts, and the State of Wisconsin. Justin utilizes different quantitative strategies based on municipal bond market conditions to develop customized financial solutions for his clients. He is focused on providing cost-efficient financing outcomes that are tailored to each entity through capital improvement planning, debt monitoring and analysis, and refinancing opportunities. His experience includes general obligations, various revenue obligations, annual appropriation and tax increment district creation, amendments, and financing. Justin is a member of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association (WCMA) and numerous other professional organizations and is frequently requested to present topics pertinent to municipal finance.

Justin earned his Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his Master of Business Administration from Marquette University. He is licensed through the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) as a registered Municipal Advisor Representative (Series 50), a Municipal Securities Representative (Series 52), and a Uniform Securities Agent (Series 63).

## Jim Halverson, AICP

*Vice President, Operations Director, Governmental Services, HR Green*

Jim is a Principal and Vice President of Governmental Services at HR Green. He brings more than 34 years of local government and municipal consulting experience in an array of areas including alternative service delivery, evaluating, and implementing enterprise models for

select development-oriented services as well as integrating HR Green resources into an interdisciplinary team to deliver asset management services. Before joining HR Green, Jim served in leadership roles heading economic and community development departments as well as a metropolitan planning organization.

## Tim Hartnett

*Vice President, Practice Leader- Governmental Services, HR Green*

Tim is the Vice President and Practice Leader for HR Green’s Governmental Services. For more than 30 years Tim has provided ongoing municipal engineering services for dozens of municipalities in Northern Illinois. His experience includes the overall management of municipality operations including subdivision and site improvement review and approval process from concept plan through the final plat in accordance with the municipality’s Municipal Code, Engineering Standards, applicable development agreements and annexation agreements. Tim has also helped develop alternative service delivery models for efficiently providing plan review and inspection services for local governments. These models and templates have been used by numerous cities to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

## Neil Howe

*Author, the Fourth Turning*

Neil Howe is a renowned authority on generations and social change in America. An acclaimed author and speaker, he is the nation’s leading thinker on today’s generations—who they are, what motivates them, and how they will shape America’s future.

Howe is founder and president of the consulting firm LifeCourse Associates, where he develops and implements cutting-edge research, analysis, and consulting services to help clients understand how generations impact marketing, workforce issues, and strategic planning. LifeCourse has served hundreds of corporate, nonprofit, and government clients. A historian, economist, and demographer, Howe is a recognized authority on global aging, long-term fiscal policy, and migration. He is the managing director of demography at Hedgeye and president of Saeculum Research. Howe is also a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Global Aging Institute, both in Washington D.C. He has co-authored numerous studies for CSIS (including the Aging Vulnerability Index and pioneering studies on pension reform in China and South Korea).

Howe is a bestselling author who has written over a dozen books on generations, demographic change, and fiscal policy, many of them with William Strauss. Howe and Strauss’ first book, *Generations* (1991) is a history of America told as a sequence of generational biographies. *Generations*, said Newsweek, is “a provocative, erudite, and engaging analysis of the rhythms of American life.” Vice President Al Gore called it “the most stimulating book on American history that I have ever read” and sent a copy to every member of Congress. Newt Gingrich called it “an intellectual tour de force.” Of their book, *The Fourth Turning* (1997), Dan Yankelovich said, “Immensely stimulating...We will never be able to think about history in the same way.” The Boston Globe wrote, “If Howe and Strauss are right, they will take their place among the great American prophets.

## Phil Kiraly

*Village Manager, Village of Glencoe, IL*

With over 20 years of service to local governments in the Chicago region, Phil has served as Glencoe's Village Manager since 2013. Prior to his appointment in Glencoe, Phil served the Villages of Skokie, Deerfield and Northbrook in various capacities ranging from Administrative Intern to Assistant Village Manager. He has extensive experience in economic development, comprehensive and strategic planning, collective bargaining, project management and organizational development and has a deep commitment to impactful community engagement. He's active on various social media platforms and authors a regular Village Manager's Blog for the Village of Glencoe. Since 2015, Phil has been an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Phil is currently the Secretary/Treasurer for the Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA) as well as the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Managers Association. In 2021, Phil was presented with the Les Allen Service to the Community Award by ILCMA for his philanthropic work in support of JDRF.

Phil is a proud graduate of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois as well as Northern Illinois University's nationally ranked Master of Public Administration program. He's an avid runner and with his wife Lindsay has two daughters, Eleanor (6) and Katherine (3) and a black lab, "Rosie the Rescue".

## Gregory Kuhn, PhD

*Director, NIU Center for Governmental Studies*

Greg Kuhn is interim director of Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies (CGS). Greg has 40 years of combined experience in government administration, consulting and academics. In addition to working at CGS for many years, Greg has also served in city management as village manager in Clarendon Hills and assistant to the manager in Skokie, both Illinois communities in the Chicago area. He has also served as a consultant to governments as director of Local Government Management Services at Sikich, LLP, managing vice-president of the PAR Group and senior associate in Governmental Services at Korn-Ferry International.

As part of CGS, Greg has undertaken research, conducted organizational studies and provided leadership assistance to governments throughout the state. He specializes in strategic planning, public management, organizational design, leadership training and governance and policy formulation.

Greg is also a lecturer in NIU's Department of Public Administration and the Northwestern University School of Professional Studies, and he has earned teaching awards at both schools. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Marquette University and a master's degree in Public Administration and Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University.

In his spare time, Greg is active in his community, serving on Amita Health's Hinsdale and LaGrange Hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Council and, 27 years of service on the Clarendon Hills Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, including terms as vice-chair

and chair. Greg is a native of Grand Ridge, Illinois and comes from a family with long-standing ties to NIU.

## Sam Liebert

*Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Shorewood Hills, WI*

Sam has an extensive background in public service at the local and federal level. He served as the Assistant City Administrator in the City of Monroe from August 2017 to August 2019 and as the Administrative Services Director/Clerk-Treasurer for the Village of Sussex since August 2019. Prior to that, Sam served on the City of Janesville Common Council from 2011-2017 and is a former Deputy White House Liaison USDA. He is a member of the Wisconsin City/County Manager Association, the Wisconsin Municipal Clerk Association, and the Municipal Treasurer's Association of Wisconsin.

## Daniel Lindstrom

*Development Services Director, City of De Pere, WI*

Daniel is responsible for managing the City's economic development program, promoting growth and development of the City's economic base, assisting in the retention and expansion of existing businesses while vigorously seeking out new businesses for the City. Daniel directly recruits and negotiates with businesses to add new employment growth and experiences to the fabric of the City. As part of the program, he manages the overall economic health of De Pere's ten Tax Incremental Finance Districts and administers the City's Revolving Loan Fund. Daniel is also responsible for overseeing the functions of the Planning, Zoning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Building Inspection and Code Enforcement divisions. Prior to joining the City, Daniel was the planning and community development department manager at a Wisconsin-based engineering and planning firm where he managed a team of planners and designers working with municipalities across Wisconsin. Daniel received his Masters of City and Regional Planning from the Ohio State University - Knowlton School of Architecture.

## Russ Loebe, ICMA-CM

*Vice President, Governmental Services, HR Green*

Russ Loebe is a Credential City Manager and Vice President of Governmental Services at HR Green. Since joining HR Green, in 2011, Mr. Loebe has led numerous projects and studies for local government including organizational and staffing studies, utility rate analysis, CIP development, shared services studies, and general management consultation. Russ also spearheaded the effort in development of the first of its kind "Handbook of Alternative Service Delivery for Local Government" in conjunction with Northern Illinois University. Before joining HR Green, Mr. Loebe spent 33 years in local government serving 25 years as Village Administrator and 8 years as the Director of Public Works. In 2011 Mr. Loebe was awarded the Illinois City Management Association's Robert B. Morris Lifetime Achievement Award.



## Gavin Luter

*Managing Director, UniverCity Alliance, UW-Madison*

Gavin Luter received his Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Buffalo in 2015. He holds a Master's of Science degree in the higher education administration from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and a Bachelor's of Arts degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in public and non-profit management.

Most recently, Luter served as the Executive Director of Wisconsin Campus Compact. While pursuing his doctorate, he published several peer-reviewed articles and served as guest editor of a peer-reviewed academic journal on community-school-university partnerships and the intersection of school reform and neighborhood development. As part of his project work with the University at Buffalo Center for Urban Studies, Luter served as education planning director of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhood initiative where he worked to secure over \$16 million in commitments from 45 different philanthropic and higher education partners to create a neighborhood-linked education system. Luter also oversaw the Center's neighborhood development internship program where college students operated an in-school project-based learning enrichment program for middle school students centered on neighborhood-based problem solving. At the United Way of Greater Knoxville, Luter managed a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation regional teacher effectiveness advocacy and coalition-building grant project. At the University of Tennessee-Knoxville's (UTK) Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, Luter developed and coordinated an undergraduate student living-learning community experience for students interested in public service and civic engagement.

## Brian Meade, AIA LEED AP

*Design Principal, FGM Architects*

Brian is a licensed architect and Design Principal with FGM Architects which has offices in WI, IL, MO, and TX. For over 25 years now, Meade has primarily worked in the public sector with clients across the country (including many police departments) helping them envision more efficient and functional work environments that help meet changing demands in the ways they operate and engage with the community. Brian received his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Architecture from the University of Illinois, Champaign - Urbana. He has also had the honor and opportunity to be speak at and be involved in organizations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the AIA's Academy of Architecture for Justice. In 2019, Brian was a Session Speaker at the IACP sponsored seminar "Planning, Design & Construction of Police Facilities".

## John Nevenhoven

*Village Administrator, Village of Elburn, IL*

John Nevenhoven is the Village Administrator for the Village of Elburn since 2016. He previously worked as the Director of Public Works for Elburn. John has worked with NIU's Center for Governmental Studies to develop the Village's first strategic plan (2018), an update to the strategic plan (2022), and an organizational and staffing study in 2021.



## David Nord, ICMA-CM

*City Manager, City of Lake Geneva, WI*

Since 2018 Dave has served as the City Administrator for the City of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. With thirty-six years of municipal experience in Illinois and Wisconsin; Dave's career includes being appointed the first City Administrator (later City Manager) in Dixon, Illinois after the worst case of municipal theft in US history to reorganize and otherwise correct illegal, ineffective and inefficient operations within the organization. Dave is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and Past President of the ILCMA. Dave also manages a Facebook page entitled "What if in downtown Lake Geneva" where ideas are shared for making downtown a more unique and interesting place to experience.

## Lorrie Pearson

*Executive Director, Champaign County Forest Preserve District*

After 18 years serving local governments at various levels in planning and community development in Virginia and Illinois, Lorrie said, "Yes, and..." to a new career and now oversees the stewardship of over 4,000 acres of natural and cultural resources throughout Champaign County. When she's not wearing her Preserve Ranger hat, she practices improv and enjoys applying it to both her personal and professional lives. She has studied improv extensively at Second City and with other coaches, including Jimmy Carrane. Lorrie also holds a certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

## Michelle Pease

*Community Development Director, City of Rochelle, IL*

Michelle Pease has over 25 years of experience in planning, developing, budget management and implementing special projects. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Development and Master of Science Degree in Human & Family Resources from Northern Illinois University. Michelle also completed the Professional Community and Economic Developer Program at Western Illinois University. Prior to her local government experience, she was in education for 17 years with Kishwaukee College and Northern Illinois University. Currently, she serves as the Community Development Director for the City of Rochelle. She has been with the City of Rochelle for over 8 years. Michelle is a credentialed Certified Professional Community and Economic Developer. She enjoys working for her hometown and feels blessed to be able to give back to her community in this capacity. In her free time, Michelle enjoys gardening, rehabbing old houses and spending time with family and friends.

## Rebecca Pederson

*Assistant to the Mayor and City Administrator, City of Waukesha, WI*

Rebecca Pederson has been serving the City of Waukesha, WI for over 5 years as Assistant to the Mayor and City Administrator. In her role, she helps lead the City's Communication Team.

Prior to her role in Waukesha, Rebecca served as the Assistant Village Manager for the Village of Bayside, WI, and as a Management Analyst for the International City County Management Association in Washington, DC. Rebecca has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

## Jared Polony

*Director of Community Development, Elk Grove Village, IL*

Jared has been with the Village of Elk Grove Village since 2009, serving in the roles of Plan Reviewer, Plan Review Supervisor, Deputy Director, and Director. His responsibilities include professional development of staff, oversight of daily operations, future development planning, process improvement and implementation, and providing vision, leadership, and management to the Department.

Before employment with Elk Grove Village, Jared held the position of Plan Reviewer/Building Inspector for B & F Technical Codes where he enhanced his technical skills for construction methods and identifying deficiencies in construction plans. Jared is a member of Northwest Building Officials and Code Administrators and the Suburban Building Officials Conference. Additionally, Jared is a graduate of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service Leading, Educating and Development (LEAD) program. Jared earned his Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Illinois State University.

## Cory Poris Plasch

*Senior Vice President, Rapp Consulting Group*

Cory has served in variety of leadership positions in the public and private sector including Executive Director of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association, Membership Director for the Alliance for Innovation, and most recently as Vice President of Strategic Development at POLCO. Her local government experience ranges from 911 Dispatcher to the City Manager's Office in Illinois communities. She speaks across the country on topics including the use of data, civic engagement, engaging hard-to-reach populations, and innovation in local government. Cory has helped numerous local governments and other public-sector organizations succeed in better engaging their communities so that all stakeholders (including communities of color and other hard-to-reach populations) are included, driving positive change. She has a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University.

## Katy Rush

*Vice President, GovHR USA*

Katy Rush has more than 30 years' experience as a local government professional. From 2009 until 2017, Ms. Rush served as the Village Administrator in Woodridge, a progressive, diverse community known for its community engagement efforts. During her tenure in Woodridge the community and its partners were recognized for their collaborative efforts and regional

service. Throughout her volunteer work and her consulting assignments, she is dedicated to advancing the goals and values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## Todd Schmidt

*Village Administrator, Village of Waunakee, WI*

Since 2010 Todd Schmidt has served as Village Administrator for the Village of Waunakee, a growing community of 15,000 in Wisconsin's capital-city metro region. Todd earned his MPA from Northern Illinois University, and has spent his 25-year career in local government management serving Wisconsin communities. He has served as president of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association and is currently Past-President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

## Jay Shambeau

*City Administrator, City of West Bend, WI*

Jay was born and raised in Two Rivers, WI. He earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, a bachelor's degree in geography and regional analysis from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, and an associate of arts degree in general studies from the University of Wisconsin - Manitowoc. In 2014, he successfully completed the Leadership Wisconsin program, administered by the University of Wisconsin.

Prior to Jay accepting this position, he was the Planning and Parks Administrator for Washington County, Calumet County Administrator, Kewaskum Village Administrator; and Clark County Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Jay is a member of the Rotary Club of West Bend and serves as a board member for the West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce, Boys and Girls Club of Washington County, and Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School. He volunteers countless hours in the community. Jay and his wife, Sandy, have four children: Elliot (24), Mason (23), Abby (19) and Lilly (19).

## Lisa Stricker

*DEI Consultant, Strategist, and Facilitator, Ruby Glo Marketing*

Lisa Stricker is an innovative DEI consultant, strategist, and facilitator with 25+ years' experience. She is highly regarded for her impact around inclusive leadership, unconscious bias, and change management. Lisa brings a mixture of expertise, passion, authenticity, and vision to create a different perspective on complex topics. She has partnered with organizations to create environments of inclusion built on compassion, empathy and understanding. Lisa completed her graduate, undergraduate and diversity studies at DePaul University.

## Jenny Thompson

*Director of Community Engagement/Assistant to the City Manager, City of Rochelle, IL*

As a hometown gal, Jenny prides herself on making local government friendly & accessible to everyone. As a communications team of one, she manages media accounts and websites; creates a monthly newsletter, an annual magazine, press releases and graphics; and plans a handful of community events each year while also engaging in special projects like establishing a new daycare and Citizen's Academy. Jenny holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University and has served the City of Rochelle for fifteen years. In her spare time she reads & reviews books, loves to travel and tries to learn a thing or two about TikTok from her daughters.

## Tony Topf

*President, Village of Wonder Lake, IL*

Tony Topf has been involved in the landscape management industry since 1983 working on projects in the Chicago metro area and southern Wisconsin. In 2002 he started serving on the Wonder Lake Village Board as a Trustee and was elected President in 2004, a position he has held continuously since that time. He managed the negotiations that led to the development of Stonewater, a residential development of 3,700 homes that built a new water and wastewater treatment plant. That development enabled several private water systems to consolidate into a public utility that now provides high-quality water to residents. Concurrent with this development has been a planned expansion of municipal services to meet the needs of a growing population. The population was 1,345 at the start of his term, is now 3,846, and is expected to double in the next ten years.

## Heidi Voorhees

*President, GovHR USA*

Heidi Voorhees is the co-owner and President of GovHR USA and has more than 35 years' experience in local government leadership, recruitment and selection and management consulting. A founding member of the Legacy Project in Illinois and an active member of the League of Women in Government, Ms. Voorhees is deeply committed to increasing the diversity of local government leadership by recognizing the importance of equity and inclusion in these efforts. She has spoken widely on this topic including at ICMA, IGFOA, and the Michigan Municipal Executives' Winter Conference. She recently completed a DEI certification program at Northwestern University.

## Carina Walters

*City Administrator, City of Burlington, WI*

Carina Walters, a graduate of the NIU MPA program, has been the Burlington, Wisconsin City Administrator since 2015. The City has a population of over 11,000 covering approximately 3 square miles and operates on an operating and capital budget totaling \$31 million.

With over 17 years of municipal experience, Carina oversees a full-service community with a municipal airport, has participated in development/redevelopment, creation of Tax Increment Financing districts, union negotiations, service consolidations, large capital projects, assumption of ambulatory services from a local 501c3, heading towards a full-time paramedic level service and as you all have, navigated a pandemic.

Prior to joining the Burlington team, she was the Assistant City Manager in Lake Forest, Illinois. Her priorities outside of work, are spending time with her husband of 17 years and two kids under 10 years old exploring nature, boating, fishing, and sports.

## Jess Wildes

*Communications and Economic Development Director, City of West Bend, WI*

Jess grew up in southern Minnesota. She earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, master's degree in integrated marketing communications from Eastern Michigan University, and a bachelor's degree communications and art from the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University.

Prior to her work for the City of West Bend, Jess served as Marketing Director for the Museum of Wisconsin Art, as well as Recruitment Marketing Director roles for Mount Mary University in Milwaukee and Northland College in Ashland.

Jess is the executive director of the Downtown Business Improvement District Board, serves the West Bend Tourism Commission, and is a member of the Communications Advisory Board for Mount Mary University. She enjoys volunteering for area nonprofit organizations and special events.

Jess and her husband, Tanner, have two children: Marshall (8) and Mitchell (6).

## Ken Witt

*County Administrator, St. Croix County, WI*

Ken spent the first few years after college working in public accounting before discovering his true calling in local government. Having started out in government at just 24 years old, Ken has spent over half his life serving local governments in Wisconsin. Working for one Village, two Cities and one County, Ken has completed 26 years of service. It has been a blessed career with the successes outweighing the challenges. Always an optimist, Ken will find the solution to any situation encountered.